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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /134 W
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R 161706Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0349
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TIKYO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 7018

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 15, 1977

1. SUMMARY: DURING AUGUST 15 MEETING OF CCD WESTER GROUP, REPS DISCUSSED US-SOVIET TALKS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF A FALL CCD SESSION AND THE TOPIC OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. END SUMMARY

2. IN AUGUST 1 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP (CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US REP (FISHER) INFORMED GROUP THAT THE SOVIETS HAD PRESENTED A DETAILED PROPOSAL ON RW, COVERING DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, AND USE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THAT THE USG IS CONSIDERING THE SOVIET APPROACH. THE ROUND OF RW DISCUSSIONS, US REP STATED, WAS CONTINUING.

3. NETHERLANDS REP (MEERBURG) SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), SCHEDULED FOR MAY-JUNE 1978, THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT AN RW AGREEMENT WULD BE BETTER THAN NOTHING. IF AN

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RW AGREEMENT WERE ACCOMPANIED BY PROGRESS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) OR ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB), THEN IT WOULD BE VIEWED POSITIVELY. BUT IF ONLY AN RW AGREEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED, THE NETHERLANDS REP SAID, THAT WOULD BE WORSE THAN NOTHING.

4. US REP REPLIED THAT THE US CERTAINLY BELIEVES CTB AND CW TO BE MORE IMPORTANT, AND THAT RW DOES NOT COMPETE WITH THEM.

5. ON THE US-SOVIET CW BILATERAL TALKS, PLANNED TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 16, US REP (FISHER) SAID THA AFTER PRESENTING A DETAILED PROPOSAL IN THE PRECEDING ROUND THE US DEL EXPECTS TO HEAR SOVIET REACTIONS, ANDWOULD AT LEAST AT THE OUTSET TAKE THE VIEW THAT THIS CALL WAS "THEIR KOPEK". US REP SAID THAT ALLIES WOULD BE INFORMED OF INITIAL SOVIET REACTIONS AT NEXT WESTERN GROUP MEETING.

6. ON THE QUESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, UK REP (ASHE) STATED HIS BELIEF THAT NONALIGNED INTEREST ON DISCUSSING CNP IN THE CCD HAS FADED, AND THAT THE NONALIGNED SEE A GREATER VALUE IN DISCUSSING CNP IN NEW YORK, IN THE CONTEST OF THE SSOD AND THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR IT. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT, REPS AGREED THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE THE CASE, AND THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD WORK TO THE DISADVANTAAGE OF THE WEST'S POSITION ON ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES.
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7. ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A FALL CCD SESSION, US REP SAID THAT IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT CCD WILL BE ABLE TO CONDUCT MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CTB THIS FALL; THAT CONDUCTING CW NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE A MUCH BETTER IDEA ON THIS IN A FEW DAYS; AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE WORTHWHILE TO HAVE A FALL SESSION TO CONDUCT RW NEGOTIATIONS ONLY, WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A DIVERSION. HE DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF CONDUCTING MULTILATERAL RW NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE ABOVE REPRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON THE DELEGATION LEVEL, SUBJECT TO CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 7018

8. MEMBER OF CANADIAN DEL (SIMARD) INQUIRED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE UK IDEA OF THE CO-CHAIRMAN (US, USSR) RECONVENING THE CCD IN THE FALL, IF THISWERE TO BECOME NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE. UK REP (ASHE) STATED HE HAD APPROACHED REPS OF USSR (LIKHATCHEV) AND OF SWEDEN (HAMILTON) ON THI POINT, SUGGESTING THAT AT THE CLOSE OF THE SUMMER SESSION CCD TAKE A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO RECONVENE IN FEBRUARY, SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN. THE SOVIET AND SWEDISH RESPONSES, THE UK REP INDCIATED, HAD BEEN THAT THIS WOULD BE A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH.

9. US REP SAID THAT IN VIEW OF NONALIGNED SENSITIVITIES WITH REGARD TO THE PREROGATIVES OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP, THE FORMULATION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE "SUBECT TO THE CALL
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OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE" -- OR SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES. FINDNG A FORMULATION, HE SAID, SHOULD BE EASY TODO; THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT A FALL SESSION IS DESIRABLE.

10. REPS DISCUSSED SWEDISH EFFORTS TO ADVANCE TH DISARMAMENT DEBATE IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 32ND UNGA BY ONE WEEK, SO THAT IT WOULD BEGIN ON OCTOBER 10 INSTEAD OF ON OCTOBER 17. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE SWEDES ARE UNLIKELY TO

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SUCCEED,AND THAT IT IS IN ANY CASE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO SEPARATE THIS QUESTION FROM ANY COMMITMENT TO HOLD A FALL SESSION OF THE CCD. ON THIS POINT, THE CONSENSUS VIEW WAS THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT WHETHER A FALL CCD SESSION WOULD BE WORTHWHILE.

1. NEXT WESTERN GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD AS REGUARLY SCHEDULED, AT 11:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17.SORENSON

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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